

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units by copolymerizing:

- \_\_\_ i) a mole % of para-phenylenediamine;
- \_\_\_ ii) b mole % of 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and
- \_\_\_ iii) 90-110 mole% of terephthaloyl dichloride

in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and containing c wt.% of calcium chloride, wherein c is within the range from 1 to 20, and wherein the ratio a : b ranges from 1 : 20 to 20 : 1, a + b is 100 mole%, and i), ii), and iii) together comprise 1-20 wt.% of the mixture, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the product b.c is at least 50 and less than 215 and that the composition is a crumb with a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  of at least 4, wherein the crumb is defined as non-sticky particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-15 mm.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by copolymerizing para-phenylenediamine; 5(6)-amino-2-(aminophenyl) benzimidazole; and terephthaloyl dichloride in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and calcium chloride, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the composition is a crumb with a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  of at least 4.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the crumb has a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  between 4 and 7.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb of claim 2 ~~or 3~~ in water, followed by a drying step.

5. (New) A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb of claim 3 in water, followed by a drying step.